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OO RUEHDBU RUEHLH RUEHPW
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ZNY CCCCC ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 4823
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2949
INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY PRIORITY 9346
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 0157
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 3537
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 0597
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 1353
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 6054
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 7892
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 0831
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 0179
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 8095
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 5899

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 004761

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KABUL -- PLEASE PASS TO CFC-A

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/20/2015

TAGS: [PK](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MASS](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: VICE CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF WANTS ANA TO JOIN
U.S.-PAK JOINT EXERCISE

Classified By: Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) During a March 17 conversation with PM - A/S Hillen, Pakistan's Vice Chief of Army Staff GEN Ahsan Saleem Hyat said that he would welcome the expanding a joint exercise between the U.S. and Pakistan military schedule for later this spring to include a unit from the Afghan National Army (ANA). The exercise in question -- Inspired Gambit -- is scheduled for May 2 - 10, with a training location at Tarbela and exercise site at Cherat, NWFP. The exercise will focus on preparation of air assault operations at a battalion level and execution at a company level. GEN Ahsan believed that including an ANA unit (perhaps one ANA squadron attached to each participating U.S. and Pakistani unit) would increase interoperability and cross-border cooperation, as well as help to cool the heated public rhetoric that has characterized the Pakistani-Afghan bilateral relationship over the past month.

¶2. (C) GEN Hyat first raised the prospect of ANA forces joining the Inspired Gambit exercise during his March 6 meeting in Islamabad with GEN Abizaid. His fulsome discussion of the proposal in his meeting with A/S Hillen reveal that he has given the idea serious consideration in the interim. Emb Islamabad supports GEN Hyat's suggestion, agreeing that folding an ANA unit into this exercise offers an early opportunity to advance cross-border cooperation and build trust between these neighbors.

¶3. (C) Office of Defense Representative - Pakistan (ODRP) officers raised the possibility of ANA participation in a March 20 Inspired Gambit planning meeting with the Pakistan Army's Directorate General-Military Training (DGMT); DGMT representatives were receptive, although surprised to hear that the idea originated with GEN Ahsan. The Pakistani side said that -- for cultural, dietary and language reasons -- they would look into providing mess and billets for the ANA contingent, while the ODRP representative would take on responsibility for transporting the ANA troops to/from Afghanistan.

¶4. (C) Comment: As we work to increase positive interaction between Pakistan and Afghanistan, this is a

positive development. We hope that Embassy Kabul and CFC-A will encourage Afghan participation in this exercise.

15. (U) MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
CROCKER